

Green Building Update

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publication

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\$8 B in green grants announced

U.S. Department of Energy - March 12

Vice President Biden and Energy Secretary Chu detailed nearly \$8 billion in state and local weatherization and energy efficiency grants as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With an investment of \$5 billion through the Weatherization Assistance Program and \$3 billion for the State Energy Program, the Department of Energy will partner with state and local governments to put 87,000 Americans to work and save families hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills. The funding will support weatherization of homes, including adding more insulation, sealing leaks and modernizing heating and air conditioning equipment, which will pay for itself many times over. The Program will allow an average investment of up to \$6,500 per home in energy efficiency upgrades and will be available for families making up to 200% of the federal poverty level - or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four.

Green Building Focus

Recap of Webcor/Navitas Executive Forum

Navitas Capital - March 18

Navitas Capital recently hosted a green executive forum in San Francisco with Webcor Builders. This first-of-its-kind event, represented a unique high-level executive forum, limited to 60 thought leaders who are all at the forefront of driving innovation in green building.

CBIA endorses 2 'green building' programs

California Building Industry Association - March 12

The California Building Industry Association endorsed two voluntary green building programs for its members that wish to build homes that exceed the state's energy-efficiency and water conservation standards. The two voluntary green building programs – the Building Industry Institute's Green Builder program and Build It Green's GreenPoint Rated program – together account for the bulk of new homes being produced that include additional green features not mandated by law.

Farmers Insurance offers Eco-Rebuild

Sustainable Industries - March 9

Farmer's Insurance announced a new coverage for customers that want to rebuild or replace property with green building materials, regardless of whether or not the damaged property incorporated green materials. The "Eco-Rebuild" rider adds 2% to the overall policy's premium and pays up to \$25,000 to cover the extra costs of choosing green building materials and processes.

Green building superstore

Sustainable Industries - March 11

San Rafael, California-based [NewHome](#) will open the first of nine planned full-service showrooms for green builders in April. NewHome plans to follow the Apple model of hybrid retail with online and in-store retail sales of about 200,000 "eco-friendly" products. After spending eight months rebranding itself as a green building retailer and service provider, the company is ready to take home improvement powerhouses Home Depot and Lowe's head on, according CEO Rich Rifkin. Customers from individual homeowners to developers will find a full suite of services available, including mortgage brokerage, contracting and project management, along with advice and referrals.

LEED 2009 rolling out in April

Richmond Times-Dispatch - March 11

The USGBC is making the first major revisions to its LEED certification program since the year 2000, which are designed to put more emphasis on using energy wisely and fighting climate change. Changes in the portion of the program that apply to commercial buildings, such as stores, offices hotels and schools, will be effective in late April, said the USGBC. Among other changes, the online process of getting LEED certification will be streamlined and a new system will award more points for such measures as using solar energy or building near a city center or mass transit. Those changes help reduce energy use, address climate change and combat suburban sprawl.

Residential green leases

U.S. Green Building Council - March 8

Multi-unit residential buildings are beginning to make the leap to LEED certification. The move requires the responsibilities of the landlord and tenant to be clearly spelled out in the lease including sustainability standards, a smoking policy and a method for the allocating green building credits and rebates.

Best indicator of a green building?

Boston Globe - March 14

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association is exploring an important question: Does LEED warrant its status as the pre-eminent nationwide standard for green buildings? One expert asserted that LEED-rated buildings actually use 25 - 30% more energy - not less. A major contention of LEED detractors is that the LEED certification program is model based, rather than performance based, which may allow some LEED projects to be less energy efficient.

Green race among business schools

U.S. Green Building Council - March 9

The new Ross School of Business, at the University of Michigan, is green down to the toilets which feature electric green handles which can be pushed either up or down, creating a high-intensity or low-intensity flush. The green handle toilets are estimated to reduce water consumption by as much as 67%. Other business schools in the country are also 'greening up,' and university administrators hope efforts will turn prospective students' and recruiters' heads.

Notable green building projects...

Green for same price as conventional house

Boston Globe - March 12

As detailed on their [blog](#), the Porter family carefully researched and built their 2,800-square-foot home with super-efficient insulating panels and heat from geothermal energy for the same price as a conventionally built house. Energy bills should be half what they would have paid in their previous fossil fuel heated home. The family's home is on track to be the first LEED-certified home in Holliston.

New green school in Santee, CA

Associated Construction Publications - March 16

Construction contractor Barnhart, Inc. announced the completion of the \$10 million, 18-classroom addition to Cajon Park School in Santee, California. Designed to meet standards for green building construction, the new school building's energy-conserving features control the amount of sunlight entering the rooms and electricity needed to power light fixtures. Drought-resistant plants cut down water use while recycled ceramic tile and carpeting reduce waste.

LEED Silver Bioscience facility

U.S. Green Building Council - March 11

BD, a global medical technology company, announced its new Biosciences facility in San Jose, California. The facility received LEED Silver certification. The building opened in June 2008 after being reengineered and refurbished. The building is projected to use 20% less energy, and 200,000 gallons per year less water, than a comparable building in San Jose. The lighting systems exceed California energy efficiency standards

by more than 15%. More than 90% of materials demolished during the \$27 million project were recycled.

[Greenest building on the West Coast?](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - March 16

Possibly the greenest commercial building on the West Coast is being proposed where the 1934 General Strike began -- the bloodiest clash between labor and police in San Francisco's history. If built, it will be one of the tallest on the city's waterfront. However, the future of this project is anything but certain, as the developer must deal with opposition from historical conservationists, longshoremen, and those that do not want such a tall building constructed on San Francisco's famed waterfront. The height limits might actually be the kiss of death for the project, despite the fact that it is expected to receive a Platinum LEED rating.

[No. Carolina MOB registers for LEED](#)

MyNC.com - March 16

Youthology is the first eco-friendly medical office building in North Carolina to register with the USGBC for LEED certification. In designing the Youthology office, materials used were recycled, reclaimed, and rapidly renewable. All materials were manufactured in an environmentally friendly way and do not release harmful chemicals or volatile organic compounds.

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